

Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend claims 57, 66, 67, 69, 70, 79, 80, 82, 83, 92, 93, 95 and 96 as follows.

Please cancel claims 58-65, 68, 71-78, 81, 84-91 and 94 without prejudice to continued prosecution. The claims and their status are shown below.

1-57. (Canceled)

57. (Currently Amended) An article of manufacture, comprising:

a pair of *capB* primers, wherein said pair of *capB* primers comprises a first *capB* primer and a second *capB* primer, wherein said first *capB* primer is no more than 30 nucleotides in length and comprises the sequence 5'-CCC AAT TCG AGT AAA CAT A-3' (SEQ ID NO:1) or wherein said second *capB* primer is no more than 30 nucleotides in length and comprises the sequence 5'- ACT GCC ATA CAT TCA CAA -3' (SEQ ID NO:2);

a pair of *capB* probes, wherein said pair of *capB* probes comprises a first *capB* probe and a second *capB* probe, wherein said first *capB* probe is no more than 30 nucleotides in length and comprises the sequence 5'- CGA TTA AGC GCC GTA AAG AAG GTC CTA ATA TC -3' (SEQ ID NO:3) or wherein said second *capB* probe is no more than 30 nucleotides in length and comprise the sequence 5'- GTG AGC AAC GCA GGG TAG TTA AAG AGG CTG - 3' (SEQ ID NO:4); and

a donor fluorescent moiety and a corresponding acceptor fluorescent moiety.

58-65. (Canceled)

66. (Currently Amended) The article of manufacture of claim 57 ~~[[65]]~~, wherein said ~~pair of *capB* probes comprises a first *capB* probe~~ is labeled with said donor fluorescent moiety and said ~~[[a]]~~ second *capB* probe is labeled with said corresponding acceptor fluorescent moiety.

67. (Currently Amended) The article of manufacture of claim 57 ~~[[or 59]]~~, further comprising a package label or package insert having instructions thereon for using said pair of *capB* primers and said pair of *capB* probes to detect the presence or absence of *B. anthracis* in a biological sample.

68. (Canceled)

69. (Currently Amended) An article of manufacture comprising a pair of *capB* primers and a pair of *capB* probes, wherein said pair of *capB* primers comprises a first *capB* primer and a second *capB* primer, wherein said pair of *capB* probes comprises a first *capB* probe and a second

capB probe, wherein said first *capB* primer is no more than 30 nucleotides in length and comprises the sequence 5'-CCC AAT TCG AGT AAA CAT A-3' (SEQ ID NO:1), wherein said second *capB* primer is no more than 30 nucleotides in length and comprises the sequence 5'-ACT GCC ATA CAT TCA CAA-3' (SEQ ID NO:2), wherein said first *capB* probe is no more than 30 nucleotides in length and comprises the sequence 5'-CGA TTA AGC GCC GTA AAG AAG GTC CTA ATA TC-3' (SEQ ID NO:3), wherein said second *capB* probe is no more than 30 nucleotides in length and comprises the sequence 5'-GTG AGC AAC GCA GGG TAG TTA AAG AGG CTG-3' (SEQ ID NO:4).

70. (Previously presented) An article of manufacture, comprising

a pair of *pagA* primers, wherein said pair of *pagA* primers comprises a first *pagA* primer and a second *pagA* primer, wherein said first *pagA* primer is no more than 30 nucleotides in length and comprises the sequence 5'-TAC AGG ACG GAT TGA TAA G-3' (SEQ ID NO:5) or wherein said second *pagA* primer is no more than 30 nucleotides in length and comprises the sequence 5'- TTT CAG CCC AAG TTC TTT -3' (SEQ ID NO:6);

a pair of *pagA* probes, wherein said pair of *pagA* probes comprises a first *pagA* probe and a second *pagA* probe, wherein said first *pagA* probe is no more than 30 nucleotides in length and comprises the sequence 5'- AGT ACA TGG AAA TGC AGA AGT G -3' (SEQ ID NO:7) or wherein said second *pagA* probe is no more than 30 nucleotides in length and comprises the sequence 5'- ATG CGT CGT TCT TTG ATA TTG GT -3' (SEQ ID NO:8); and
a donor fluorescent moiety and a corresponding acceptor fluorescent moiety.

71-78. (Canceled)

79. (Currently Amended) The article of manufacture of claim 70 [[78]], wherein said ~~pair of *pagA* probes~~ comprises a first *pagA* probe is labeled with said donor fluorescent moiety and said [[a]] second *pagA* probe is labeled with said corresponding acceptor fluorescent moiety.

80. (Currently Amended) The article of manufacture of claim 70 [[or 72]], further comprising a package label or package insert having instructions thereon for using said pair of *pagA* primers and said pair of *pagA* probes to detect the presence or absence of *B. anthracis* in a biological sample.

81. (Canceled)

82. (Currently Amended) An article of manufacture comprising a pair of *pagA* primers and a pair of *pagA* probes, wherein said pair of *pagA* primers comprises a first *pagA* primer and a second *pagA* primer, wherein said pair of *pagA* probes comprises a first *pagA* probe and a second *pagA* probe, wherein said first *pagA* primer is no more than 30 nucleotides in length and comprises the sequence 5'-TAC AGG ACG GAT TGA TAA G-3' (SEQ ID NO:5), wherein said second *pagA* primer is no more than 30 nucleotides in length and comprises the sequence 5'-TTT CAG CCC AAG TTC TTT-3' (SEQ ID NO:6), wherein said first *pagA* probe is no more than 30 nucleotides in length and comprises the sequence 5'-AGT ACA TGG AAA TGC AGA AGT G-3' (SEQ ID NO:7), wherein said second *pagA* probe is no more than 30 nucleotides in length and comprises the sequence 5'-ATG CGT CGT TCT TTG ATA TTG GT- 3' (SEQ ID NO:8).

83. (Previously presented) An article of manufacture, comprising
a pair of *lef* primers, wherein said pair of *lef* primers comprises a first *lef* primer and a second *lef* primer, wherein said first *lef* primer is no more than 30 nucleotides in length and comprises the sequence 5'-TTT TAC CGA TAT TAC TCT CC-3' (SEQ ID NO:9) or wherein said second *lef* primer is no more than 30 nucleotides in length and comprises the sequence 5'-AAC CTA AAG GCT TCT GC -3' (SEQ ID NO:10);

a pair of *lef* probes, wherein said pair of *lef* probes comprises a first *lef* probe and a second *lef* probe, wherein the first *lef* probe is no more than 30 nucleotides in length and comprises the sequence 5'- ATT AAG GAA TGA TAG TGA GGG T -3' (SEQ ID NO:11) or wherein said second *lef* probe is no more than 30 nucleotides in length and comprises the sequence 5'- TAT ACA CGA ATT TGG ACA TGC T -3' (SEQ ID NO:12); and

a donor fluorescent moiety and a corresponding acceptor fluorescent moiety.

84-91. (Canceled)

92. (Currently Amended) The article of manufacture of claim 83 [[91]], wherein said ~~pair of *lef* probes comprises~~ a first *lef* probe is labeled with said donor fluorescent moiety and said [[a]] second *lef* probe is labeled with said corresponding acceptor fluorescent moiety.

93. (Currently Amended) The article of manufacture of claim 83 [[or 85]], further comprising a package label or package insert having instructions thereon for using said pair of *lef* primers or said pair of *lef* probes to detect the presence or absence of *B. anthracis* in a biological sample.

94. (Canceled)

95. (Currently Amended) An article of manufacture comprising a pair of *lef* primers and a pair of *lef* probes, wherein said pair of *lef* primers comprises a first *lef* primer and a second *lef* primer, wherein said pair of *lef* probes comprises a first *lef* probe and a second *lef* probe, wherein said first *lef* primer is no more than 30 nucleotides in length and comprises the sequence 5'-TTT TAC CGA TAT TAC TCT CC-3' (SEQ ID NO:9), wherein said second *lef* primer is no more than 30 nucleotides in length and comprises the sequence 5'-AAC CTA AAG GCT TCT GC-3' (SEQ ID NO:10), wherein said first *lef* probe is no more than 30 nucleotides in length and comprises the sequence 5'-ATT AAG GAA TGA TAG TGA GGG T- 3' (SEQ ID NO:11), wherein said second *lef* probe is no more than 30 nucleotides in length and comprises the sequence 5'-TAT ACA CGA ATT TGG ACA TGC T- 3' (SEQ ID NO:12).

96. (Currently Amended) An article of manufacture comprising a pair of *capB* primers and a pair of *capB* probes, wherein said pair of *capB* primers comprises a first *capB* primer and a second *capB* primer, wherein said pair of *capB* probes comprises a first *capB* probe and a second *capB* probe, wherein said first *capB* primer is no more than 30 nucleotides in length and comprises the sequence 5'-CCC AAT TCG AGT AAA CAT A-3' (SEQ ID NO:1), wherein said second *capB* primer is no more than 30 nucleotides in length and comprises the sequence 5'-ACT GCC ATA CAT TCA CAA-3' (SEQ ID NO:2), wherein said first *capB* probe is no more than 30 nucleotides in length and comprises the sequence 5'-CGA TTA AGC GCC GTA AAG AAG GTC CTA ATA TC-3' (SEQ ID NO:3), wherein said second *capB* probe is no more than 30 nucleotides in length and comprises the sequence 5'-GTG AGC AAC GCA GGG TAG TTA AAG AGG CTG-3' (SEQ ID NO:4), said article of manufacture further comprising a pair of *pagA* primers and a pair of *pagA* probes, wherein said pair of *pagA* primers comprises a first *pagA* primer and a second *pagA* primer, wherein said pair of *pagA* probes comprises a first *pagA* probe and a second *pagA* probe, wherein said first *pagA* primer is no more than 30 nucleotides in length and comprises the sequence 5'-TAC AGG ACG GAT TGA TAA G-3' (SEQ ID NO:5), wherein said second *pagA* primer is no more than 30 nucleotides in length and comprises the sequence 5'-TTT CAG CCC AAG TTC TTT-3' (SEQ ID NO:6), wherein said first *pagA* probe is no more than 30 nucleotides in length and comprises the sequence 5'-AGT ACA TGG AAA TGC AGA AGT G- 3' (SEQ ID NO:7), wherein said second *pagA* probe is no more than 30

nucleotides in length and comprises the sequence 5'-ATG CGT CGT TCT TTG ATA TTG GT-3' (SEQ ID NO:8), said article of manufacture further comprising a pair of *lef* primers and a pair of *lef* probes, wherein said pair of *lef* primers comprises a first *lef* primer and a second *lef* primer, wherein said pair of *lef* probes comprises a first *lef* probe and a second *lef* probe, wherein said first *lef* primer is no more than 30 nucleotides in length and comprises the sequence 5'-TTT TAC CGA TAT TAC TCT CC-3' (SEQ ID NO:9), wherein said second *lef* primer is no more than 30 nucleotides in length and comprises the sequence 5'-AAC CTA AAG GCT TCT GC-3' (SEQ ID NO:10), wherein said first *lef* probe is no more than 30 nucleotides in length and comprises the sequence 5'-ATT AAG GAA TGA TAG TGA GGG T- 3' (SEQ ID NO:11), wherein said second *lef* probe is no more than 30 nucleotides in length and comprises the sequence 5'-TAT ACA CGA ATT TGG ACA TGC T- 3' (SEQ ID NO:12).